United Nations

A/64/466

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic, on 23 September 2009 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) John **Sawers**

09-53738 (E) 021009

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of the Argentine Republic in the general debate on 23 September 2009

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

The British Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands are not a colonial enclave. Britain's overseas territories are British for as long as they want to remain British. The people of the Falkland Islands have chosen to retain their link with Britain. The democratically elected representatives of the Falkland Islands once again expressed their own views clearly when they visited the United Nations for this year's debate in the Committee of 24.

They asked the committee to recognize that they, like any other people, were entitled to exercise the right of self-determination. They reiterated that the people of the Falkland Islands did not wish for any change in the status of the Islands.

There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders so wish.

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Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus in exercise of the right to reply to the remarks made by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 24 September 2009, in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**

09-53744 (E) 021009

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey on 24 September 2009 in the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus regrets that the positions taken by the Prime Minister of Turkey in his address to the General Assembly on 24 September 2009 are clearly disconnected, both in letter and spirit, with the ongoing efforts undertaken by the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, within the good-offices mission of the Secretary-General, to reach a political settlement. What is even more disconcerting is the fact that the Prime Minister of Turkey selectively recalls today his country's role as guarantor power only in relation to a so-called "new partnership" in Cyprus, a notion that falls outside the agreed basis upon which the talks are being conducted.

The Prime Minister of Turkey attempts to introduce elements that are not part of the agreed process, such as arbitration and timetables. This is an attempt to alter the nature of the negotiations and would also endanger the end result of that process, which is to find a solution by the Cypriots and for the Cypriots.

At the same time, the Prime Minister of Turkey has suggested that unless the solution to be found falls within specific conditions laid down by Turkey, then the United Nations and the international community should seek to "normalize" the status of the so-called "TRNC". Turkey, which is currently serving on the Security Council, should be reminded that its role is to uphold international law and legality and not to call upon the international community to upgrade an illegal entity that has been universally condemned by the Security Council itself.

Finally, instead of speaking of the so-called "isolation" of the Turkish-Cypriot community, the Turkish Prime Minister should help the Turkish Cypriots by allowing the leader of that community to arrive at a solution that would guarantee the legitimate rights of the people of Cyprus, Greek-Cypriots, Turkish-Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins. The "isolation" that Mr. Erdoğan refers to is the direct consequence of the ongoing occupation of a substantial part of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish troops.

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Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of Greece in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 25 September 2009, at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Anastassis **Mitsialis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-53750 (E) 021009

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Anastassis Mitsialis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by H.E. Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

I would like to put the following statement on record in response to the statement made today by the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, during the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

The Security Council, by its resolution 817 (1993), recommended, and the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/225, dated 27 April 1993, decided that this country will be provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of this State.

Furthermore, the Security Council, by its resolution 845 (1993), urged "the parties to continue their efforts under the auspices of the Secretary-General to arrive at a speedy settlement of the remaining issues".

Greece proceeded to the bilateral negotiations pursuant to resolution 845 (1993) and the subsequent interim accord of 1995, concluded among the two parties, with goodwill and a spirit of compromise, wishing to assist in reaching an acceptable solution over the name issue under the auspices of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy.

However, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has shown during these years an utter disregard for the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions and an intransigent and uncompromising position during bilateral negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, thus preventing any progress therefrom leading to an amicable settlement of the difference between the two countries.

Even within the United Nations, as was the case also today, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has never used the name by which the two principal organs of the Organization decided that it should be provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations, but, on the contrary, has always used the very name over which the Security Council has acknowledged the existence of a difference between the two countries.

In November 2008, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia instituted proceedings before the International Court of Justice. This is another attempt by its Government to further obstruct and delay the process of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the difference over its name, despite the recommendations of the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the 1995 Interim Accord.

At the same time, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continuously violates the letter and the spirit of the Interim Accord, which lays the foundations

for establishing a climate of good-neighbourly relations and understanding between the two countries, pending the definitive settlement of the name issue.

Greece remains firmly committed to the bilateral negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and to the need for a prompt and acceptable solution to the name issue that would take into consideration the legitimate interests and sensitivities of both countries and would solve a problem which directly affects regional stability. Such a solution could be achieved only if no country attempts to assert exclusivity through the use of the name, thus monopolizing the wider geographic region of Macedonia.

There should be no winners or losers in this effort. A speedy solution to the name issue is in the interest of both countries as well as of regional peace and stability. The Security Council, in its resolution 817 (1993), clearly stipulates that the name issue "needs to be resolved in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region". Greece stands ready to pursue such a solution.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 129
Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 31 December 2008 and implementation of the recommendations of the Board relating to the biennium 2006-2007

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2008 (A/64/5/Add.5), as well as the Board's report on the implementation of its recommendations relating to the biennium 2006-2007 (A/64/98). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with members of the Audit Operations Committee, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee will consider the Board's report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2008 (A/64/5 (Vol. V)) when it takes up the seventh annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan.

II. Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

3. The Board of Auditors issued a qualified audit opinion on the financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2008 (see

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A/64/5/Add.5). The Board indicates that the qualification relates to the inclusion, in the figure of $1.628 billion shown as total expenditure in statement I, the sum of $498.6 million representing expenditure incurred by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on projects performed through implementing partners. The latter amount was subject to independent audits by third-party auditors. As at 29 June 2009, however, of the total amount of $498.6 million that required audit certification, certificates covering $252 million, or 50.5 per cent, had not been received by UNHCR, although the audit reports were generally due by 30 April 2009. In addition, concerning prior years, approximately 10 per cent of expenditure for 2005 had not yet been substantiated by audit certificates as at June 2009. For 2006 and for 2007, 14 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, were not covered. Of the audit certificates received by UNHCR for 2008, $29.5 million, or 12 per cent of the value of audit certificates received, reflected qualified audit opinions. The Board has therefore been unable to obtain adequate assurance as to the validity of a significant portion of expenditure incurred through implementing partners. This matter had been emphasized by the Board in previous reports, where it recommended improvements to the controls over the management of expenditure incurred by implementing partners.

4. The Board has also emphasized in its opinion the following matters:

(a) The disclosure in note 15 to the financial statements of the value of non-expendable property is based on use of a database, the shortcomings of which have been highlighted in the Board's previous reports. The Board notes that several anomalies have not been corrected and expresses concern about their impact on the accuracy of the amount disclosed as UNHCR assets;

(b) The value of expendable property inventories was not disclosed, as required by the United Nations system accounting standards. UNHCR estimated the value of expendable property to be $109.3 million as at 2 March 2009; however, the Board found that the expendable property database was not fully reliable;

(c) As a result of the provision made in the accounts for end-of-service and post-retirement liabilities, including health insurance liabilities, the reserves and fund balances reflected a deficit of $130.1 million, which, in the Board's opinion, highlights the need for UNHCR to identify funding to cover the liabilities.

5. In its report, the Board states that, for the year ended 31 December 2007, of a total of 21 recommendations, 7 had been fully implemented, 11 had been partially implemented and 3 had not been implemented. Of the 11 recommendations partially implemented and the 3 not implemented, 1 was first raised in 2002, 1 in 2006, and 12 in 2007. Of the three recommendations not implemented, one was made for the financial year 2006 and two for 2007 (see A/64/5/Add.5, chap. II, paras. 11 and 18).

6. The Board's findings and recommendations cover such areas as after-service health insurance liabilities, progress made towards implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), cash management, management of non-expendable property, expendable property, human resources management, programme and project management, internal audit activities, write-offs, ex gratia payments and cases of fraud and presumptive fraud. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNHCR will make every effort to implement the recommendations.**

7. A number of the issues raised by the Board have also been addressed by the Advisory Committee in the context of its consideration of the biennial programme budget of UNHCR for 2010-2011 (A/AC.96/1068). Since the report of the Advisory Committee on the biennial programme budget of UNHCR is submitted directly to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, some of the observations and recommendations in that report are summarized below.

8. With regard to the non-receipt of audit certificates, as discussed above (para. 3), the Advisory Committee notes that the situation has not improved despite repeated recommendations by the Board. **The Advisory Committee emphasizes that audit certificates are an important internal control mechanism and believes that the absence of a verifiable audit trail for such a large sum could lead to a heightened risk of exposure to potential fraud. While acknowledging the often difficult environment in which UNHCR operates, the Advisory Committee nevertheless urges UNHCR to take practical measures to address the substantive concerns raised by the Board.**

9. With regard to progress made towards the implementation of IPSAS, the Board continued to review the efforts undertaken by UNHCR and the related adaptation of its enterprise resource planning system. UNHCR is planning to issue IPSAS compliant financial statements as at 31 December 2011. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was informed by the Board of Auditors that, in response to the difficulties encountered by a number of organizations in implementing IPSAS, the Board was preparing a paper to be shared among the organizations, which would clarify the requirements to be met prior to implementing IPSAS. Furthermore, the Board stated its willingness to review UNHCR revisions to its Financial Rules in relation to the full adoption of IPSAS, as it would do for other organizations. **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that UNHCR submit to the Board proposed revisions to the Financial Rules required for full adoption of IPSAS, when available.**

10. The Advisory Committee notes the difficulties the organizations face in the transition to IPSAS and encourages the active engagement of the relevant expert bodies to ensure sound advice. In this connection, the Advisory Committee welcomes the Board's planned role with regard to the transition to IPSAS.

III. Implementation of the recommendations of the Board relating to the biennium 2006-2007

11. The report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of its recommendations relating to the biennium 2006-2007 (A/64/98) covers 15 United Nations entities[1] on which the Board reports on a biennial basis to the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee will consider the Board's findings on the

[1] The United Nations, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in conjunction with its consideration of the budget proposals for those three entities to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

12. As noted in paragraph 7 and table 2 of the report (A/64/98), the number of recommendations made by the Board decreased by 22 per cent over the previous biennium. The rate of implementation also decreased in comparison with the previous biennium (see A/64/98, table 3). Of a total of 507 recommendations made by the Board for the biennium 2006-2007, 238 (47 per cent) had been implemented as at 31 March 2009, 237 (46 per cent) were under implementation, 19 (4 per cent) had not been implemented and 13 (3 per cent) had been overtaken by events. In comparison, of the 651 recommendations for the biennium 2004-2005, 342 (52 per cent) had been implemented as at 31 March 2007, 276 (43 per cent) were under implementation, 28 (4 per cent) had not been implemented and 5 (1 per cent) had been overtaken by events. **The Advisory Committee notes that the rate of implementation of the Board's recommendations for the biennium 2006-2007 has decreased when compared to the biennium 2004-2005 and urges the organizations concerned to intensify their efforts to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.**

13. The Board cites a number of common reasons for lack of full implementation, including: (a) the lack, at some organizations, of a dedicated follow-up mechanism; (b) the lack of sufficient inter-agency coordination in the implementation of recommendations that pertain to more than one organization; (c) the undertaking, in the areas of inter-agency coordination, information and communications technology and human resources management, of medium-term projects that take longer to implement; (d) the pending implementation of IPSAS; (e) entities sometimes addressing recommendations in a symptomatic manner; (f) a focus mostly on the main recommendations of the Board and not on other recommendations (see A/64/98, para. 12). **The Advisory Committee underscores the need for the organizations to take measures, at the most senior level, to overcome the deficiencies in the implementation of the Board's recommendations.**

14. For its part, the Board has also identified good practices in relation to the implementation and follow-up of its recommendations, including: (a) identification and monitoring of a list of priority auditing issues; (b) validation by internal auditors and related tracking by some audit committees of management's assessment of the status of implementation of the Board's recommendations; (c) identification of the causes of recurring audit observations and development of appropriate action plans to address them; and (d) establishment of time frames and completion standards for the implementation of recommendations (A/64/98, para. 15).

15. The Board indicates its assessment that most of the organizations will not fully implement IPSAS by the planned implementation date of 1 January 2010 and emphasizes the need for effective monitoring of the project timelines and deliverables to ensure full implementation by the newly decided deadlines. **The Advisory Committee concurs with the Board.**

16. The Board notes that activities, such as human resources reform, the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence and the enterprise resource planning project, will take some time to come to fruition and indicates its intention to keep those matters under review.

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Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 29 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you the following message from Ny Hasina Andriamanjato, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar:

"Sir,

The delegation of Madagascar would like to make the following comments pursuant to the decision by the General Assembly on 25 September 2009 to deny Madagascar the opportunity to speak during the general debate following a request by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) not to give the floor to His Excellency Andry Nirina Rajoelina, President of the High Transitional Authority of the Republic of Madagascar.

First of all, as a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, Madagascar was invited by the United Nations Secretary-General (note verbale of 7 July 2009) to the high-level meeting on climate change.

His Excellency Andry Nirina Rajoelina was also invited by the United Nations Secretary-General (letter dated 31 March 2009) to the annual treaty ceremony. On 25 September 2009 he signed the following two treaties:

- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (New York, 10 December 2008);
- United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (New York, 11 December 2008).

Lastly, like every year, Madagascar, a Member State of the United Nations, was officially invited by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

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We were greatly surprised and dismayed when the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a member of SADC, who had not issued the invitation, requested the General Assembly not to give the floor to His Excellency Andry Nirina Rajoelina, head of the Malagsy delegation.

In the name of the very principle of State sovereignty, what right did SADC have to prevent Madagascar from speaking? At that time, the Credentials Committee had not yet submitted its report.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome document was adopted by all world leaders in 2005, but what became of paragraph 5 of its section on values and principles, where the world leaders rededicated themselves to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect territorial integrity and political independence, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States?

With reference to rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the 'question of the representation of Madagascar' was not on the agenda. This was the plenary general debate in which all Member States are invited to participate.

Inasmuch as we are all here in this august Assembly, what do we want and where do we want to go? Among the entirely appropriate themes for this sixty-fourth session, the dialogue of cultures and civilizations is at the heart of our debate.

We are deeply saddened by the attitude of certain friendly countries that wish to exclude and marginalize us. Such an anachronistic approach is unworthy of our times.

We welcome the wise decision of the President of the General Assembly, who requested an opinion of the Legal Counsel authorizing the head of the Madagascar delegation to take the floor.

However, we deplore the result of the vote that pushed aside the majority of Member States. Is this democracy? No one can claim to have a monopoly on good ideas.

We vehemently proclaim that the result of the vote does not represent democracy. The whole world will agree on that.

In no way can the 33 Member States who participated in the vote pretend to embody democracy concerning an issue as sensitive as Madagascar's representation and sovereignty within the United Nations."

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex containing the statement of Andry Nirina Rajoelina as an official document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

(*Signed*) Zina **Andrianarivelo-Razafy**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement by Andry Nirina Rajoelina, President of the High Transitional Authority

United Nations General Assembly, sixty-fourth session

New York, 24 September 2009

It is with great pleasure that I speak from the rostrum of the United Nations today representing Madagascar, for which it is a particular honour to be able to contribute to the reflections and deliberations in this highly significant setting.

As we all know, the United Nations is the ideal forum for exchanging our respective experiences and to maintain our solidarity.

In such circumstances, allow me first of all to express my heartfelt thanks to Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann for the excellent way in which he led the sixty-third session of our General Assembly, which allowed us to make progress on various current issues that are necessary and useful for the fulfilment of humanity as a whole.

Allow me, furthermore, to present my warm congratulations on the election of Ali Treki as President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. I am certain that this august Assembly will adopt pertinent resolutions and decisions under his clear-sighted leadership.

I also wish to salute you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your exceptional and visible ability to react in response to all the crises troubling the world. I can only wish you the greatest success in accomplishing your missions.

This year's theme, "global response to global crises and development through strengthening multilateralism and dialogue of civilizations" perfectly reflects the desire of us all to find a common solution to our common problems.

Our cultural, religious or other differences should in no way constitute a factor in lack of understanding among us, the peoples of this world.

On the contrary, they should provide even greater impetus to guide us towards durable peace and security.

Indeed, our differences lie in the way in which each of us approaches realities, being and events. The resulting points of view are partial, and thus necessarily complement each other.

I join with African leaders in affirming that Africa deserves its place in the community of nations. I also share the view that the common value of democracy we all proclaim would be meaningless if geographical representation were not applied within this Organization. It is a matter of the very legitimacy of the United Nations.

As the world's second most populous continent, Africa should not be excluded from initiatives that concern it.

We support the demand of the President of the African Union and several member States to grant it the right to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council with all the associated prerogatives.

We are here to mark the way for future generations and to make concrete our desire to promote dialogue among cultures and civilizations. Let us hold fast to the principles we unanimously adopted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Allow me to salute all the efforts undertaken to date, at all levels of our international community, for this cause that is dear to us. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, for we are still far from achieving our objectives.

Understanding, rejection of discrimination, and tolerance, religious or otherwise, without which a durable peace will remain a utopian ideal, must be the watchwords in guiding our actions.

They must be our reference points in each decision we take, whether in the political, economic, social or cultural fields.

In that regard, allow me briefly to examine the case of my country, Madagascar, whose situation, it appears to me, embodies a model of society where "we", the youth, must take on an increasingly important role in all decision-making processes.

Sixty-five per cent of the population of Madagascar is under 25 years of age, which is roughly the proportion of youth throughout the world, especially in developing countries.

The world is in the process of searching for a reference point to survive the major challenges it is facing, in particular the economic and financial crisis, climate change, food insecurity and growing poverty.

In Madagascar, these problems, combined with failed governance over the past two decades, inevitably resulted in an acute political and social crisis.

The Malagasy experience speaks to us all, for the youth of Madagascar have taken responsibility.

Being among the youngest Heads of State present at this General Assembly, if not the youngest, I formally call on all the youth of the world to take action against the new challenges facing humanity.

"Let us act in order not to suffer, and change for a better, sustainable world!"

I also appeal to our elders to have confidence in the youth of today and of tomorrow. And I thank the Secretary-General for the relevance of his initiative at his climate change conference, when he involved youth in this struggle for the survival of humanity.

We are speaking out to the whole world because:

We have waited too long for our opportunity to choose;

We have waited too long to attack injustice, the poverty of our countrymen, abuse and drift;

We have waited too long to find real solutions to poor governance which has mired much of humanity in poverty.

To suffering, anguish and despair, we must have one response:

We want to change,

We must change,

We will change.

This is not the first time in 49 years of independence that the Malagasy people have manifested their will for change.

The peaceful movement of the Malagasy people led to the establishment of a Transitional Authority validated by the High Constitutional Court of the Republic of Madagascar.

Unfortunately, some technical and financial partners are threatening sanctions of various types.

We can only regret such threats, which will serve only to increase the suffering of the Malagasy people, for Madagascar still depends on international assistance, and in the end its beneficiaries are the people and not Governments.

Therefore, from this rostrum, we solemnly appeal to the international community, to all donors, to review their reading of the situation and to continue their assistance to the Malagasy people in order to prevent further deterioration in their standard of living.

The principal mission of the transition regime, which is consensual and inclusive, is to draft a new Constitution for the advent of the Fourth Republic in line with the expectations of the Malagasy people. The major principles of this new Constitution will be laid down during a national conference to be organized and conducted by civil society.

We would like to state our commitment to the holding of free, fair, transparent and regular elections as early as possible, on the basis of a new electoral code under the supervision of the Independent Electoral Commission and monitored by international observers.

We greatly hope that the United Nations will accompany us through this electoral process. We request your assistance and support.

Looking towards the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, the Malagasy people call for international cooperation in favour of all initiatives aimed at promoting a culture of peace and dialogue among all cultures, civilizations and religions. This choice is eminently meaningful as the current crises remind us that all countries of the world are called on to cooperate, especially because of interdependence related to globalization, and that a spirit of dialogue must prevail.

Dialogue assumes equality and mutual respect. Thus, all points of view and proposed solutions deserve to be considered for their worth in order to address the complex crises which are currently raging across our planet. In other words, effective multilateralism through international organizations is at stake, and ideological eclecticism as well as methodological realism must be brought to bear.

Dialogue also requires a spirit of burden-sharing. From this viewpoint, since crises have universal impact, recovery should benefit all and associated strategies must be impartial.

As long as some peoples and actors of the world are underestimated and even excluded, effectiveness will miss the mark.

The promises made at the international conferences on the economic, financial, food and climate crises must be kept. Among them, I would like to cite the promise to allocate 0.7 per cent of the economic recovery plans adopted in rich countries to respond to the immediate needs of peoples suffering from hunger and malnutrition and to guarantee food security for all.

Madagascar is grateful for the support of the international community in its efforts for peace and development, and reaffirms its determination to contribute to our collective reflections in order to solve shared problems.

May the dialogue of civilizations prosper all the nations through a gentler, more humane globalization!

United Nations A/64/471

General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 29 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, to enclose herewith the statement issued by the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau regarding the situation that has emerged in the wake of tropical storm Ketsana, which hit the Philippines on 26 September 2009 (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70 (a).

(*Signed*) Maged **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the urgent situation due to tropical storm Ketsana, which hit the Philippines on 26 September 2009

New York, 28 September 2009

Egypt, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, expresses its deep sympathy and solidarity with the Government and people of the Philippines, given the urgent situation that has emerged in the wake of tropical storm Ketsana, which hit the northern Philippines on Saturday, 26 September, fuelling the worst flooding to hit the country in more than 40 years and resulting in a massive loss of life and property.

The Non-Aligned Movement urges United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and humanitarian relief and assistance organizations, as well as the donor community, to promptly provide all the necessary support to the Government and people of the Philippines in their efforts to overcome the effects of disaster and to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance to support national efforts to achieve early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates the Movement's solidarity with the Government and people of the Philippines in all their efforts to overcome the effects of this natural disaster.